



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 6586

LCO No. 2884

* _____HB06586PH____031005_____*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL TESTING BY RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-162n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

3 As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14 and sections 20-162n to
4 20-162q, inclusive:

5 (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

6 (b) "Respiratory care" means health care under the direction of a
7 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 and in accordance with
8 written protocols developed by said physician, employed in the
9 therapy, management, rehabilitation, diagnostic evaluation and care of
10 patients with deficiencies and abnormalities [which] that affect the
11 cardiopulmonary system and associated aspects of other system
12 functions and [which] that includes the following: (1) The therapeutic
13 and diagnostic use of medical gases, administering apparatus,
14 humidification and aerosols, administration of drugs and medications

15 to the cardiorespiratory systems, ventilatory assistance and ventilatory
 16 control, postural drainage, chest physiotherapy and breathing
 17 exercises, respiratory rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 18 and maintenance of natural airways as well as the insertion and
 19 maintenance of artificial airways, (2) the specific testing techniques
 20 employed in respiratory therapy to assist in diagnosis, monitoring,
 21 treatment and research, including the measurement of ventilatory
 22 volumes, pressures and flows, specimen collection of blood and other
 23 materials, pulmonary function testing and hemodynamic and other
 24 related physiological monitoring of cardiopulmonary systems, [and]
 25 (3) with appropriate training and education, performance of a purified
 26 protein derivative test to identify exposure to tuberculosis, and (4)
 27 patient education in self-care procedures as part of the ongoing
 28 program of respiratory care of such patient. The practice of respiratory
 29 therapy is not limited to the hospital setting;

30 (c) "Respiratory care practitioner" means a person who is licensed to
 31 practice respiratory care in this state pursuant to section 20-162o and
 32 who may transcribe and implement written and verbal orders for
 33 respiratory care issued by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter
 34 370, or a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or an
 35 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378
 36 who is functioning within the person's respective scope of practice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	20-162n

PH *Joint Favorable*